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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Consideration of the additional international legal instruments: draft instrument against illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants

Draft Protocol against the Smuggling[1] of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea,[2] Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[3]

* A/AC.254/15.

[1] The term "smuggling" is used throughout the text in the light of action taken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighth session regarding the draft Protocol Addressing Trafficking in Women and Children. During the discussion at the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee, several delegations raised the issue of the translation of the term "smuggling" into languages other than English and the problems that it created. Attention will, therefore, be paid to identifying the appropriate term to be used in languages other than English. That will be done in the glossary of terms, which the Secretariat is currently preparing. Existing texts on the subject, such as General Assembly resolutions 48/102 and 51/62 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/10, might be useful in this regard.

[2] In its resolution 53/111, the General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee, *inter alia*, to discuss the elaboration of an international instrument addressing illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea. The Ad Hoc Committee at its first session was of the view that focusing on illegal trafficking and transporting by sea would be too restrictive.

[3] The text of the present draft protocol is based on a proposal submitted by Austria and Italy containing draft elements for an international legal instrument against illegal trafficking and transport of migrants (A/AC.254/4/Add.1). It reflects all comments and proposals made or submitted by delegations at the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee, held in Vienna from 19 to 29 January 1999.

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Preamble[4]

The States Parties to this Protocol,

[(a) *Taking note* of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,]

(b) *Concerned* about the rapid development of the smuggling of migrants,

[(c) *Alarmed* by the significant increase in the activities of transnational criminal organizations that make illicit profits by smuggling migrants across national boundaries,]

[(d) *Recognizing* that transnational criminal organizations also use the smuggling of migrants to further numerous other criminal activities, thus bringing great harm to the States concerned,]

(e) *Concerned* that the smuggling of migrants may lead to the misuse of established procedures for immigration, including those for seeking asylum,[5]

[(f) *Also concerned* that the smuggling of migrants can endanger the lives or security of the individual migrants involved and entails great expense for the international community, including the costs of rescue, medical care, food, housing and transportation,]

[(g) *Reaffirming* that States should give high priority to preventing, combating and eradicating the smuggling of migrants because of the links of such activity with transnational organized crime and other criminal activities,]

[(h) *Convinced* that combating the smuggling of migrants requires international cooperation, the exchange of information and other appropriate measures at the national, regional and global levels,]

(i) *Also convinced* that, to counter this phenomenon, a global approach, including socio-economic measures, is necessary,

(j) *Further convinced* of the need to provide migrants with humane treatment and full protection of their human rights,

(k) *Convinced* of the need for a comprehensive international legal instrument to combat all aspects of the transnational smuggling of migrants by land, air and sea,

(l) *Stressing* the importance of full compliance by States with their obligations under the provisions of the 1951 Convention[6] and the 1967 Protocol,[7] and affirming that the present Protocol does not affect the protection afforded under the terms of the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol and other provisions of international law,

(m) *Recalling* the work of the International Maritime Organization concerning unsafe practices associated with trafficking in or transporting of illegal migrants by sea, in particular the work of the Maritime Safety Committee, which approved the interim

[4] Several delegations were of the view that the preamble should contain provisions to address the underlying causes of the illegal movement of people and to reaffirm the principle of free movement of people. Most delegations were of the view that it would be most useful to consider the preamble after the finalization of the text of the substantive articles.

[5] Several delegations were of the view that the question of refugees should also be addressed (see paragraph 2 of article 5 below).

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[7] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

measures for combating unsafe practices associated with the trafficking or transport of migrants by sea,[8]

(n) [*Text on decisions of the International Civil Aviation Organization to be added*],

[(o) *Reaffirming* respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States, including their right to control immigration flows,]

(p) *Desiring* to supplement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime by a protocol directed specifically against the smuggling of migrants, as a first step towards the eradication of this crime,[9]

[(q) *Declaring* that such an instrument must concentrate on crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular the activities of those who organize and facilitate the smuggling of migrants,]

Have agreed as follows:

I. General provisions relating to the smuggling of migrants by land, air and sea

Option 1

Article 1

Relation to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

This Protocol supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"), done at [...], and, as regards the States Parties to this Protocol, those two instruments shall be read and interpreted together as one single instrument.[10]

Option 2

Article 1

Application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

The provisions of articles [...] of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"), done at [...], shall also apply *mutatis mutandis* to this Protocol.

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[8] One delegation suggested that the International Maritime Organization circular containing the interim measures (MSC Circ.896) could be a useful source of inspiration, but that the drafting of the text of the present instrument should not necessarily be conditioned by that circular.

[9] One delegation suggested that the preamble should be supplemented with provisions stressing the effects of illegal trafficking or smuggling on national security, as well as the need to strengthen cooperation and coordination between States.

[10] For the discussion on the relationship between the Convention and the international instruments whose drafting has been entrusted to the Ad Hoc Committee pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 53/111 and 53/114, see also the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on its first session (A/AC.254/9).

Article 2[11]

Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Protocol, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Smuggling of migrants" shall mean the intentional procurement[12] for profit of the illegal entry of a person into and or illegal residence of a person in a State of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident;

(b) "Illegal entry" shall mean the crossing of borders without complying with the necessary requirements for legal entry into the receiving State;

(c) "Illegal residence" shall mean residence in the territory of a State without complying with the necessary requirements for legal residence in the State concerned;

(d) "Profit" shall mean any property, benefit or advantage obtained directly or indirectly as a result of the smuggling of a migrant, including the expectation of or future participation in criminal activities by the migrant;

(e) "Fraudulent travel or identity document" shall mean any travel or identity document:

(i) That has been made, falsified or altered in some material way by anyone other than a person or agency lawfully authorized to make or issue the travel or identity document on behalf of a State; or

(ii) That has been improperly issued or obtained through misrepresentation, corruption, duress or other unlawful manner; or

(iii) That is being used by a person other than the rightful holder;

(f) "Vehicle" shall mean any conveyance that may be used for transportation by land or air; and

(g) "Vessel" shall mean every description of water craft, including non-displacement craft and seaplanes, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water, except a warship, naval auxiliary or other vessel owned or operated by a Government and used, for the time being, only on government non-commercial service.[13]

2. For the purposes of this Protocol, each State Party shall consider the illegal entry into or illegal residence in the territory of any other State Party equal to illegal entry into or illegal residence in its own territory.

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[11] The articles on definition (article 2) and purpose (article 3) will need to be reviewed in the light of choices made with regard to options that appear later in the text. In addition, those articles will need to be reviewed to ensure their consistency with the Convention.

[12] One delegation considered the concept of "procurement of illegal entry" to be problematic. In the view of that delegation, it would be better to make reference to complicity in and aiding and abetting the violation of national migration laws.

[13] The source of the definition of "vessel" is the definition of "ship" provided in paragraph 2 of the interim measures (MSC/Circ.896, annex).

Article 3[14]

Purposes

The purposes of this Protocol are:

(a) To establish the smuggling of migrants as a criminal offence under the respective national laws of States Parties, [when committed in the context of transnational organized crime, as defined in the Convention];[15] and

(b) To promote and facilitate cooperation among States Parties to prevent, investigate and prosecute the crime of smuggling migrants.

Article 4

Criminalization

1. States Parties that have not yet done so shall adopt the necessary legislation or other measures to establish as a criminal offence the smuggling of migrants[16] [,when committed in the context of transnational organized crime, as defined in the Convention].[17]

2. States Parties that have not yet done so shall adopt the necessary legislation or other measures to establish as a criminal offence [,when committed in the context of transnational organized crime, as defined in the Convention]:[18]

(a) The intentional making, procuring or providing of a fraudulent travel or identity document; and

(b) Knowing that a travel or identity document is fraudulent:

(i) Using, possessing, dealing with or acting on such a document; and

(ii) Causing a fraudulent travel or identity document to be used, possessed, dealt with or acted on.

3. Each State Party shall also adopt the necessary legislation or other measures to establish as a criminal offence the following conduct:

(a) Attempting to commit an offence set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article;

(b) Participating as an accomplice in an offence set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article;[19]

(c) Organizing or directing others to commit an offence set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article; or

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[14] See footnote 9 above. Some delegations were of the view that the Ad Hoc Committee would need to consider whether to link the offences covered by this Protocol with organized crime and, if so, how.

[15] This formulation is provisional, as it will depend on the outcome of the negotiations regarding definitions in the draft Convention (see also footnote 11 above).

[16] One delegation suggested that not only individuals but also legal entities (legal persons) should be covered because of the potential involvement of travel companies or corporations.

[17] This formulation is provisional, as it will depend on the outcome of the negotiations regarding definitions in the draft Convention (see also footnote 11 above).

[18] This formulation is provisional, as it will depend on the outcome of the negotiations regarding definitions in the draft Convention (see also footnote 11 above).

[19] Some delegations were of the view that, notwithstanding paragraph 6 of this article, the concept of participation required clarification.

[(d) In any other way contributing to the commission of an offence set forth in this article by a group of persons acting with a common purpose; such contribution shall be intentional and shall either be made with the aim of furthering the general criminal activity or purpose of the group or be made in the knowledge of the intention of the group to commit the offence or offences concerned].[20]

4. States Parties shall make the commission of the offences in this article liable to sanctions that take into account the grave nature of the offences.

5. States Parties that have not yet done so shall adopt the necessary legislation or other measures to establish as an aggravating circumstance the smuggling of migrants in circumstances that endanger, or are likely to endanger, the life or safety of persons whose illegal entry is procured or intended.

6. States Parties that have not yet done so shall adopt the necessary legislation or other measures to establish as an aggravating circumstance the exploitation or inhuman or degrading treatment of persons whose illegal entry is procured or intended.

7. A person whose illegal entry and/or illegal residence is procured or intended by the smuggling of migrants shall not become punishable under this Protocol.[21]

Article 5

Scope of application

1. This Protocol applies to the smuggling of migrants when committed in the context of organized crime as defined in article 2 of the Convention.[22]

2. The provisions of this Protocol shall be without prejudice to the obligations of States Parties under the 1951 Convention[23] and the 1967 Protocol[24] relating to the Status of Refugees.

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[20] This subparagraph was proposed by the delegations of Canada and the United States of America. The language is taken from article 2, paragraph 3 (c), of the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (General Assembly resolution 52/164, annex) and is intended to ensure that the Protocol will be broad enough to encompass both conspiracy and participation in a criminal organization.

[21] Some delegations expressed concern that this paragraph might interfere with the operation of national immigration laws.

[22] See footnote 11 above.

[23] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[24] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

Article 6

Jurisdiction[24]

1. Each State Party shall take legislative measures to establish its jurisdiction over the offences mentioned in article 4 of the present Protocol in accordance with article 9 of the Convention.

2. If more than one State Party intends to resume jurisdiction over an alleged offender in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article and with article 9 of the Convention, the States Parties concerned shall consult each other with a view to renouncing jurisdiction in order to render possible proceedings in the territory of the State Party most directly affected by the commission of the smuggling of migrants.[25]

II. Smuggling of migrants by sea

Article 7

Measures against the smuggling of migrants by sea

1. States Parties shall cooperate to the fullest extent possible to prevent and suppress the smuggling of migrants by sea, in conformity with the international law of the sea and all generally accepted relevant international instruments.[26]

2. A State Party that has reasonable grounds to suspect that a vessel which is flying its flag or claiming its registry, which is without nationality or which, though flying a foreign flag or refusing to show a flag, is in reality of the nationality of the State Party concerned is engaged in the smuggling of migrants by sea may request the assistance of other States Parties in suppressing the use of the vessel for that purpose. The States Parties so requested shall render such assistance as is reasonable under the circumstances.[27]

3. A State Party that has reasonable grounds to suspect that a vessel exercising freedom of navigation in accordance with international law and flying the flag or displaying marks of registry of another State Party is engaged in the smuggling of migrants may so notify the flag State, request confirmation of registry and, if confirmed, request authorization from the flag State to take appropriate measures with regard to that vessel.[27] The flag State may authorize the requesting State, *inter alia*:

(a) To board the vessel;

(b) To inspect the vessel; and

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[24] It is understood that the provisions on extradition, mutual legal assistance and other forms of international cooperation in criminal matters that appear in the Convention would apply to this Protocol. In addition, it is understood that any provisions relating to human rights of detainees should be contained in the Convention. However, there is a need to review the question of whether any additional provisions would be necessary in view of the specific nature of the Protocol.

[25] Some delegations were of the view that this paragraph should be made consistent with article 9 of the Convention.

[26] The language of this provision has been derived from article 17, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (the 1988 Convention) and from paragraph 8 of the interim measures (MSC/Circ.896, annex).

[27] The language of this provision has been derived from article 17, paragraph 2, of the 1988 Convention and from paragraph 11 of the interim measures (MSC/Circ.896, annex).

[27] The language of this provision has been derived from article 17, paragraph 3, of the 1988 Convention.

(c) If evidence is found that the vessel is engaged in the smuggling of migrants, to take appropriate action with respect to the vessel, persons and cargo on board, as authorized by the flag State.[10]

4. A State Party that has taken any action in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article shall promptly inform the flag State concerned of the results of that action.[11]

5. A State Party shall respond expeditiously to a request from another State Party to determine whether a vessel that is claiming its registry or flying its flag is entitled to do so and to a request for authorization made pursuant to paragraph 3 of this article.[12]

6. A flag State may, consistent with paragraph 1 of this article, subject its authorization to conditions to be agreed by it and the requesting State, including conditions relating to responsibility and the extent of effective measures to be taken, including the use of force.[13] A State Party shall take no additional actions without the express authorization of the flag State, except those necessary to relieve imminent danger or those which follow from relevant bilateral or multilateral agreements.[14]

7. Each State Party shall designate an authority or, where necessary, authorities to receive reports of the smuggling of migrants and to respond to requests for assistance, confirmation of registry or the right of a vessel to fly its flag and authorization to take appropriate measures.[15]

8. When there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a vessel is engaged in the smuggling of migrants by sea and it is concluded in accordance with the international law of the sea that the vessel is without nationality or has been assimilated to a vessel without nationality, States Parties shall conduct an inspection of the vessel, as necessary. If the results of the inspection indicate that the vessel is engaged in the smuggling of migrants, States Parties shall take appropriate measures in accordance with relevant domestic and international law.[16]

9. When evidence exists that a vessel is engaged in the smuggling of migrants by sea, States Parties shall:

(a) Ensure the safety and the humanitarian handling of the persons on board and ensure that any actions taken with regard to the vessel are environmentally sound; and

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[10] The language of this provision has been derived from article 17, paragraph 4, of the 1988 Convention.

[11] The language of this provision has been derived from article 17, paragraph 8, of the 1988 Convention and from paragraph 12 of the interim measures (MSC.Circ.896, annex).

[12] The language of this provision has been derived from article 17, paragraph 7, of the 1988 Convention and from paragraph 14 of the interim measures (MSC.Circ.896, annex).

[13] The language of this provision has been derived from article 17, paragraph 6, of the 1988 Convention.

[14] The language of this provision has been derived from paragraph 13 of the interim measures (MSC.Circ.896, annex). Some delegations expressed concern that the exceptions did not cover all the operational scenarios that might arise.

[15] The language of this provision has been derived from article 17, paragraph 7, of the 1988 Convention and from paragraph 21 of the interim measures (MSC.Circ.896, annex).

[16] The language of this provision has been derived from paragraph 16 of the interim measures (MSC.Circ.896, annex).

(b) Take appropriate action in accordance with relevant domestic and international law.[37]

10. If any measures are taken against a vessel suspected of being engaged in the smuggling of migrants by sea, the State Party concerned shall take into account the need not to endanger the safety of human life at sea and the security of the vessel and the cargo or to prejudice the commercial and/or legal interests of the flag State or any other interested State.[38]

11. States Parties shall take, adopt or implement such measures in conformity with international law with due regard to:

(a) The authority of the flag State to exercise jurisdiction and control in administrative, technical and social matters involving the vessel; and

(b) The rights and obligations and the exercise of jurisdiction of coastal States in accordance with the international law of the sea.[39]

12. Any action taken at sea pursuant to this article shall be carried out only by warships or military aircraft, or other ships or aircraft clearly marked and identifiable as being on government service and authorized to that effect.[40]

13. Measures taken, adopted or implemented pursuant to this Protocol shall be in conformity with the international law of the sea and all generally accepted relevant international instruments, such as the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto.[41]

14. States Parties shall consider entering into bilateral or regional agreements to facilitate cooperation in applying appropriate, efficient and effective measures to prevent and suppress the smuggling of migrants by sea.[42] States Parties shall also encourage the conclusion of operational arrangements in relation to specific cases (ad hoc arrangements).[43]

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[37] The language of this provision has been derived from paragraph 17 of the interim measures (MSC/Circ.896, annex).

[38] The language of this provision has been derived from article 17, paragraph 5, of the 1988 Convention and from paragraph 7 of the interim measures (MSC/Circ.896, annex).

[39] The language of this provision has been derived from article 17, paragraph 11, of the 1988 Convention and from paragraph 6 of the interim measures (MSC/Circ.896, annex).

[40] The language of this provision has been derived from article 17, paragraph 10, of the 1988 Convention and from paragraph 20 of the interim measures (MSC/Circ.896, annex).

[41] The language of this provision has been derived from paragraph 5 of the interim measures (MSC/Circ.896, annex).

[42] The language of this provision has been derived from article 17, paragraph 9, of the 1988 Convention and from paragraph 9 of the interim measures (MSC/Circ.896, annex).

[43] The language of this provision has been derived from paragraph 10 of the interim measures (MSC/Circ.896, annex).

III. Cooperation, prevention and other measures

Article 8

Compliance measures and arrangements

1. The Parties shall adopt every legislative and administrative measure needed in order to comply with the obligations deriving from this Protocol, having respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs.

2. The Parties shall consider the conclusion of bilateral or regional agreements or understandings aimed at:

(a) Establishing the most appropriate and effective measures to prevent, combat and limit the illegal smuggling of migrants, in accordance with this Protocol; or

(b) Enhancing the provisions of this Protocol among themselves.

Article 9

Additional legislative and administrative measures

States Parties shall take such additional legislative or other measures as they consider appropriate to prevent means of transportation operated by commercial carriers from being used in the commission of offences established under article 4 of this Protocol. Such measures shall include, in appropriate cases, fines and forfeiture to ensure that carriers, including any transportation company, or the owner or operator of any vessel or vehicle, screen all passengers to see that they have valid passports and visas, if required, or any other documentation necessary for legal entry into the receiving State.

Article 10

Information

1. Each State Party shall take measures to ensure that it provides or strengthens information programmes to increase public awareness of the fact that the smuggling of migrants is a criminal activity frequently perpetrated by criminal organizations for profit and that it poses serious risks to the migrants involved.

2. Pursuant to article 22 of the Convention, States Parties shall cooperate in the field of public information for the purpose of preventing potential migrants from becoming victims of criminal organizations.

3. Without prejudice to articles 19 and 20 of the Convention, States Parties shall, for the purpose of achieving the objectives of this Protocol, exchange among themselves, in conformity with their respective national laws and applicable treaties or arrangements, relevant information on matters such as:

(a) Embarkation and destination points, as well as routes, carriers and means of transportation, known or suspected to be used by criminal organizations engaged in the smuggling of migrants;

(b) The identity and methods of organizations or criminal associations known or suspected to be engaged in the smuggling of migrants;

(c) The authenticity and proper form of travel documents issued by a State Party and advice concerning the theft or related misuse of blank travel or identity documents;

(d) Means and methods of concealment and transportation of persons, the unlawful alteration, reproduction, acquisition or other misuse of travel or identity documents used in the smuggling of migrants and ways of detecting them;

(e) Legislative experiences, practices and measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the smuggling of migrants; and

(f) Relevant scientific and technological information useful to law enforcement, so as to enhance each other's ability to prevent, detect and investigate the smuggling of migrants and to prosecute those involved.

Article 11

Prevention

1. Each State Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to detect and prevent the smuggling of migrants between its territory and that of other States Parties, by strengthening border controls, including by checking persons and travel or identity documents, and, where appropriate, by inspecting and seizing vehicles and vessels.

2. Without prejudice to article 19 of the Convention, States Parties shall consider intensifying cooperation among border control agencies by, *inter alia*, establishing and maintaining direct channels of communication.

Article 12

Control of documents

1. States Parties shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to ensure that travel or identity documents issued by them are of such quality that they cannot readily be unlawfully altered, replicated, issued or otherwise misused.

2. Each State Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to ensure the integrity and to control the lawful creation, issuance, verification, use and acceptance of travel or identity documents issued by or on behalf of the State Party.

Article 13

Legitimacy and validity of documents

Each State Party shall, upon request by another State Party and subject to the domestic laws of the requested Party, verify without undue or unreasonable delay the legitimacy and validity of travel or identity documents issued in the name of the requested State Party and suspected of being used in the smuggling of migrants.

Article 14

Training

1. Each State Party shall provide or strengthen specialized training for immigration and other relevant officials in preventing the smuggling of migrants and in treating smuggled migrants.

2. States Parties shall cooperate with each other and with competent international organizations, as appropriate, to ensure that there is adequate personnel training in their territories to prevent, combat and eradicate the smuggling of migrants and to protect the

rights of victims of such [smuggling] [trafficking] and illegal transport. Such training shall include, *inter alia*:

(a) Improving the security and quality of travel documents;

(b) Recognizing and detecting fraudulent travel or identity documents;

(c) Gathering criminal intelligence, especially relating to the identification of organizations or criminal associations known or suspected to be engaged in the smuggling of migrants, the methods used to transport smuggled migrants, the misuse of travel or identity documents for smuggling migrants and the means of concealment used in the smuggling of migrants;

(d) Improving procedures for searching for and detecting, at conventional and non-conventional points of entry and exit, concealed, undocumented or improperly documented persons; and

(e) Recognizing the need to provide humane treatment to and protect the human rights of migrants.

3. Each State Party shall make every effort to provide the necessary resources, such as vehicles, computer systems and document readers, to combat the smuggling of migrants. States Parties with relevant expertise should consider providing technical assistance to States that are frequently used as States of origin or as transit States for the smuggling of migrants.

[*Article 15*

Return of smuggled migrants

1. Each State Party agrees to facilitate and accept, without delay, the return of a person who has been smuggled contrary to the terms of this Protocol who is a national of that State Party or who had the right of abode in the territory of that State Party at the time of entry into the receiving State.

2. At the request of the receiving State Party, each State Party shall, without undue or unreasonable delay, verify whether a person who has been smuggled contrary to the terms of this Protocol is a national of the requested State Party.

3. In order to facilitate the return of a person smuggled contrary to the terms of this Protocol without proper documentation, the State Party of whom the person is a national or in which the person had the right of abode at the time of entry into the receiving State shall agree to issue, at the request of the receiving State Party, such travel documents or other authorization as may be necessary to enable the person's readmission into its territory.][44]

[44] This article was proposed by the delegation of the United States of America and supported by a number of other delegations. Many other delegations expressed concern about the issue of the return of migrants and about the compatibility of such a provision with human rights instruments, as well as about the potential implications of such a provision on extradition.

IV. Final provisions

Article 16

Implementation[45]

1. For the purpose of examining the progress made by the States Parties in achieving the implementation of the obligations undertaken in the present Protocol, the States Parties will provide periodic reports to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

2. The States Parties will provide such reports together with the reports submitted in accordance with article 23 of the Convention.

Article 17

Signature, accession, ratification and entry into force

1. This Protocol shall be open for signature, by any State that has signed the Convention, at United Nations Headquarters in New York until [...]. Thereafter, it shall be open for accession by any State Party to the Convention.

2. This Protocol shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. This Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In the event that the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession occurs prior to the entry into force of the Convention, this Protocol shall not enter into force until the entry into force of the Convention.

Article 18

Withdrawal

1. Any State Party may withdraw from this Protocol by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. Withdrawal shall take effect twelve months after the date on which notification is received by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 19

Depositary

The original of this Protocol, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall send certified copies thereof to all States.

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[45] One delegation proposed the deletion of this article because the issue of implementation and reporting requirements would be covered by the Convention.